

R E P O R T

OF THE

Commissioners of Education in Ireland, for the Year
ending 25th of March 1825.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 14 June 1825.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST NOBLE RICHARD MARQUESS WELLESLEY,
KNIGHT OF THE GARTER, LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND
GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND,
Rc. Rc. Rc. Rc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, in obedience to the Statute made in the fifty-third year of his late Majesty King George the Third, submit to Your Excellency a general Report of our Proceedings, from the twenty-fifth day of March one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, to the twenty-fifth day of March one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

With respect to the Schools of Royal Foundation, we have the satisfaction to state to Your Excellency, that the occupying tenants of the School Estates of Enniskillen, Banagher and Carysfort (who had, as mentioned in our last Report, shown a disposition to hold the lands on their own terms), have been in a great measure reduced to reason, partly by the enforcement, and partly by the threat, of legal proceedings. Accordingly, several proposals have been made to us for leases of parts of the School Lands of Enniskillen, at the rents affixed by competent valuers employed by this Board in the year 1821; several of which proposals we have accepted, under the advice of our land agent; and the lien of the late Master (Doctor Burrowes) upon these lands, for the proportion payable to him under the building Acts, in respect of the erection of the School House, being (with the exception of a very trifling balance) discharged; which has left us the prospect of a disposable fund for the improvement of the School; we have caused our architect to inspect and report upon the necessary additions and repairs of the buildings, the commencement whereof we have hitherto been reluctantly obliged to postpone from want of funds.

Having been disappointed in our expectation of procuring an abatement of the BANAGHER. rent of the School House of Banagher, which so materially diminishes the income for the support of the Master of that School, (now on a very respectable footing, notwithstanding the slenderness of its endowment) and having been under the absolute necessity of evicting the interests of the tenants by ejectment, and feeling the difficulty of managing such a tenantry by agents, we deemed it expedient to devise the School lands to the Master, during his incumbency only; leaving him to bargain with such of the occupying tenants as could be dealt with; and this arrangement has been satisfactory to the Master of the School.

We have obtained the actual possession of the School estate of Carysfort from CARYSFORT. the occupying tenants, without having proceeded to the last extremity; and have been obliged to advertise the School lands, lying at Shehanamore, to be set at a fair value; we have also commenced a treaty with the proprietor of the soil at Carysfort,

for a site whereon to erect a suitable School House, with a residence for the Master, for the instruction of the children of the inhabitants of Carysfort and Shesnamore, in English, writing and arithmetic.

DUNGANNON.

We have caused repairs to be made at the School of Dungannon; and have appropriated 50*l.* per annum of the surplus income of the School estate, to the increase of the Master's salary, on the condition of his employing an English assistant to teach in the School, on the most approved system; and have also appropriated part of the surplus income to be paid, as exhibitions, in prizes of 25*l.* 15*l.* and 10*l.* to such pupils from Dungannon School (who shall have been under instruction there for a period not less than two years,) as shall be distinguished for good answering at the examination for their admission into the University of Dublin.

Application having been made to us by Dr. Dowdall, the Master, to join him in demising to the Mining Company of Ireland, for thirty-one years, the coalfield, on the townland of Lisnostrea, part of the School estate of Dungannon, (the benefit arising from mines on those lands having been especially reserved for the Master during his incumbency, by agreement with the late Lord Primate) we caused an inspection of the coalfield to be made by Mr. Griffith, civil engineer, with a view to ascertain its extent, and what stipulations should be made in forming an agreement with the Company; and he having made his report, and specified the terms which he would recommend to us to require from the Mining Company, we have directed our law agent to take proper measures for binding the contracting party accordingly, on the basis of the opinion given by Mr. Griffith.

The District
Schools

We beg leave to advert, in the next place, to the state of the Diocesan and District Schools, referred to by the 53d George 3d, c. 107.

We regret to be obliged to report to Your Excellency, that notwithstanding the charges given by the Judges at the several Assizes, many of the grand juries of counties, in which Schools are to be, or have been established, have (since the making of our warrants of the 6th May 1823) declined to present money, for the building and outfit or repairs of the Schools, the Act not being considered imperative on the grand juries; and it appears that some of the grand juries so declining, have been actuated by the belief, that a material change is likely to be made in the foundation and sites of the District Schools, in consequence of the appointment of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry.

We beg leave to submit our opinion to Your Excellency, that until the clause imposing upon grand juries the duty of providing for the support and establishment of these Schools, shall have been amended by the Legislature, so as to render it imperative on them to present for such purposes, we entertain no sanguine expectation of aid from the grand juries, for these most useful Classical Seminaries.

BALLYMENA,
Co. ANTRIM.
DOWNPATRICK,
Co. DOWN

We have to mention, as excepted cases, that the grand juries of the counties of Antrim and Down, have presented each 1,000*l.* for the building of the District Schools, to be erected in their respective counties. The sites of the Schools have been provided with great liberality by Mr. Adair in the former, and the Lord De Clifford in the latter county; and we have caused our architect to prepare plans of School Houses and offices, to afford accommodation suited to the sums presented, which are payable by instalments of 100*l.* a year.

MONAGHAN
District School.

The presentment, by the county Monaghan Grand Jury, of 500*l.* formerly stated to Your Excellency, forms another of the excepted cases; and we have the satisfaction to state, that, by means of that presentment, and the other funds mentioned in our last Report, considerable progress has been made in the building of a suitable House and offices near the town of Monaghan, for the establishment of the School of the District of the Dioceses of Clogher, Kilmore, and Raphoe.

TUAM.

With respect to the Diocesan School of Tuam, we do not find that his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam has as yet made any grant of land for the site of the School; as (we mentioned to Your Excellency) we expected would have been done; and we have been hitherto unable to procure a proper site from any other person.

No endeavours have been wanting on our part to place the Diocesan and District Schools on a proper foundation; but we have not authority to enforce a compliance with our suggestions.

Since the date of our last Report, the School House of Tullivim (of private Schools of Private Endowment.) has been finished, and put into possession of the Trustees, under the Will of the Founder; who are employed in providing for the Education of children of both sexes, pursuant to the Will made by the Founder of the School.

We have the satisfaction to inform Your Excellency, that after some delays in the framing of a proper and satisfactory plan, and considerable difficulty in inducing competent persons to contract for building the School House of Clonmell, for a sum not exceeding that to which we were necessarily limited by agreement with the Master, we have at length received a proposal from Messrs. Henry Mullen and McMahon, eminent builders, to undertake the contract, for the sum of 3,620*l.* (being an excess of 120*l.* over the sum at first intended to be laid out;) and that the Master has acquiesced in the additional charge upon his income, to re-pay that excess; which together with the amount of the original sum, viz. 3,500*l.* may be advanced by Government on loan, pursuant to the 19th section of the 53d of his late Majesty. We therefore purpose taking the proper steps in that respect, without any further delay, so as to conclude the contract with the builders. CLOSING.

In pursuance of the interlocutory decree obtained against the Honourable and Reverend Joseph Preston, as the heir at law of his brother, the late Lord Tara, the heir of the survivor of the Trustees named in and by the deed of the 6th of July 1686, mentioned in the said decree, has been ascertained; and a final decree will be sought from the Lord Chancellor, in the next Trinity Term, and thereupon immediate measures will be taken for building School Houses at Navan and Ballyroan. Preston's Schools.

The School House at Rathvilly, in the county of Carlow, which had been commenced under the direction of the devise of the late Benjamin Disrael and the Bishop of the Diocese (but the superintendence of which endowment has devolved on us, by the Act made in the third year of His present Majesty,) is nearly completed; and we shall direct it to be inspected by our architect, before it shall be given up to the Master. Durand's School.

Having laid before Your Excellency the foregoing observations upon the principal transactions of our Board in the last year, we reserve the detail of others, which are not sufficiently matured to meet Your Excellency's notice.

April 7th, 1825.

C. W. Walker,
Secretary.

NATH^l. MEATH, (seal.)
JOHN RADCLIFF, (seal.)
S. KYLE, (seal.)

(Ireland.)

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND, for the
Year ending the 31st of March 1872.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 June 1872.
